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(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Kenichi SHIRAISHI et al.

International Application No.: PCT/JP2003/015513

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: N/A

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APPARATUS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

This amendment includes:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.